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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR RO XF
SUBJ: LUMEA MAGAZINE MAKES FULLEST ROMANIAN REPORT
YET ON MIDDLE EAST WAR

REFS: BUCHAREST 3667 (NOTAL) AND 3787

1. IN FULLEST REPORT (OVER THREE PAGES) ON ME WAR YET TO APPEAR IN ROMANIAN PRESS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY LUMEA GIVES BALANCED PICTURE OF EVENTS SO FAR, BOTH ON BATTLEFIELDS AND IN DIPLOMATIC ARENA. WHILE ARTICLE BY RODICA GEORGESCU REPEATS ROMANIAN POSITION THAT ISRAEL'S RETENTION OF ARAB LANDS CAPTURED IN 1967 REMAINS THE BASIC CAUSE OF CURRENT HOSTILITIES, IT ALSO GIVES RATHER CLEAR IMPRESSSION THAT ARABS ACTUALLY STARTED THE FIGHTING THIS TIME. GEORGESCU WRITES THAT PRESENT WAR IS MARKED BY HEAVY LOSSES OF MEN AND
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MATERIEL ON ALL SIDES AND APPEARS TO BE TURNING INTO "WAR OF ATTRITION."

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2. GEORGESCU SUMMARIZES POSITIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL PERMANENT MEMBERS ON WAR BUT CAUTIONS, ON BASIS OF UN DEBATE, THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET PROMPT SC RESOLUTION REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH REPETITION OF WELL-KNOWN ROMANIAN POSITION ON CONFLICT (REFTELS) AND DESIRE FOR PROMPT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

3. BURIED IN CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN ME APPEARING RIGHT AFTER GEORGESCU ARTICLE IS FIRST ROMANIAN MEDIA INDICATION OF US RESUPPLY EFFORTS IN ISRAEL'S BEHALF. MCCLOSKEY IS QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT US "AIR BRIDGE" FOR RESUPPLY HAS BEEN INSTITUTED BUT THAT "NO US MILITARY PERSONNEL WHATSOEVER ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT." THIS BRIEF ITEM IS DIRECTLY PRECEDED BY MENTION OF SOVIET-ALGERIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF OCTOBER 15, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR DECISION "TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH ALL MEANS" TO THE LIBERATION OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS. THIS IS THE CLOSEST SO FAR THAT THE ROMANIANS HAVE COME TO MENTIONING SOVIET RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES.
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